

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-28 were pending in the application prior to this amendment. All of the aforementioned claims have been rejected by the Examiner.

Claims 1, 13, 24 and 27 have been amended in this response. No new matter has been introduced, and thus, entry and consideration of this amendment is now respectfully requested.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103:

Claims 1-3 and 5-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Bacon, et al. (U.S. 2002/0101991, hereafter, "Bacon"). More specifically, the Examiner alleges that Bacon anticipates each and every limitation of the aforementioned pending claims.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bacon in view of Min (U.S. Patent No. 7,088,732, hereafter, "Min"). In particular, the Examiner alleges that claim 4 is rendered obvious in view of the combined Bacon and Min references.

Bacon is directed to a subscriber television system which allows the identification of the individual packets from two separate MPEG transport streams that have been multiplexed together for decoding by a single external conditional access or point-of-deployment (POD) module. (Abstract)

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the amendments now presented herein. For example, independent claim 1 has been amended for further clarification to recite:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
receiving at least a first and a second data stream, each data stream comprising a plurality of packets and each packet having a header including a packet identifier,
generating a multiplexed data stream by alternately passing data from the first and the second data stream;
~~alternately~~-passing data from ~~each the multiplexed~~ data stream to a descrambling device,
receiving descrambled packets from the descrambling device and

alternately passing data to at least a first and a second output, so restoring the first and second data streams in a descrambled form.

Applicant respectfully submits that Bacon does not anticipate each and every limitation of at least claim 1, as amended. Specifically, Bacon discloses that “the POD module 310 receives the Data stream signal 410...in the POD Demultiplexer 330. The demultiplexer 330 identifies the portions of the Data stream signal 410 as packets from each unique source (MPEG Data 1 or MPEG Data 2) based on the Stream Select signal 430. The source-associated packets of the Data stream signal 410 are transmitted to a source-associated decryptor, either decryptor 340 or decryptor 345, for decryption.” (para. 0026 and Fig. 3) Thus, Bacon discloses two de-multiplexed data streams, and each de-multiplexed stream being routed to its associated decryptor.

By contrast, the method set forth in claim 1 requires that a single multiplexed data stream is passed to a single descrambling device. As a result, Bacon does not recite or imply, “passing data from the multiplexed data stream to a descrambling device” as recited by at least claim 1.

In view of the above, independent claim 1 is asserted to be clearly distinguishable from the Bacon reference. Further, independent claims 13, 24 and 27 include at least all of the limitations discussed above with respect to claim 1, and are therefore also distinguishable.

With respect to independent claim 25, the Office Action asserts that “Bacon discloses the MPEG Start signal 420 is associated with the MPEG clocks signals of the MPEG Data 1 and MPEG Data 2 data streams....the POD module 310 receives the Data stream signal 410, the MPEG Clock signal 420, and a Stream Select signal 430 in the POD Demultiplexer 330”. (Office Action, page 3)

Independent claim 25, sets forth the following:

25. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:
- an input configured to receive a clock signal;
 - first and second input buffers;
 - a descrambling module; and
 - first and second output buffers,
- wherein the apparatus is configured to clock input data into the first and second input buffers on one of the rising and falling edge of the clock signal respectively and to clock data out of the output buffers on one of the rising and falling edge of the clock signal respectively.

Applicant submits that Bacon provides no teaching or suggestion of “clock[ing] input data into the first and second input buffers on one of the rising and falling edge of the clock signal respectively” and “clock[ing] data out of the output buffers on one of the rising and falling edge of the clock signal respectively.”

Based on the MPEG clock signal 420 disclosed in Fig. 4 of Bacon, there is no relationship between the rising or falling edges of the clock signal and the Data signal 410. Figure 4 and paragraph 0111 of the present Application disclose that “the rising edge of the TS clock (indicated by arrows labeled A) is used to clock in data of TS #1 from the first input buffer 201 and the falling edge (indicated by arrows B) is used to clock in data of TS #2 from the second input buffer 202” Similarly, “the rising edge of the TS clock (indicated by arrows labeled A) is used to clock out data for TS #1 from the CI module 12' to the first output buffer 209 and the falling edge (indicated by arrows B) is used to clock out data for TS #2 from the CI module 12' to the second output buffer 210”. (para. 0111)

In view of the above, independent claim 25 is asserted to be clearly distinguishable from the Bacon reference.

Furthermore, Min, relied upon to teach comparing of packet identifiers, does not remedy the above discussed deficiencies of Bacon.

The balance of the claims not specifically discussed above depend from claims 1, 13, 24, 25, and 27, and as a result, are also distinguishable in view of these comments. In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections now be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

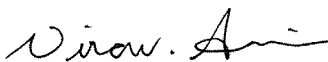
AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4220. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4220. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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